THE

SOUTHERN CROSS

Published bi monthly by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in British Guiana, New Amsterdam, Berbice, British Guiana.
Co-editors — Pastor A. J. HENNE & CYRIL S. CHU.

VOL. LIII SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER, 1961.

DEDICATED TO THE GLORY OF GOD.

"Good Shepherd" Lutheran Church, D'Edward, Rosignol Parish, West Coast Berbice, Sunday July 30, 1961.

View of the Church

Procession to the Church

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY

Officiating Clergy.

REV. A. R. BOWEN, *President, Evangelical Lutheran Church,*
REV. F. D. CHRISTHILF, *Chairman. Administrative Council.*
REV. D. R. GEBERT, *Treasurer, Evangelical Lutheran Church.*
REV. W. S. BONE, *Pastor, Ebenezer Lutheran Church.*
REV. PAUL T. JAGDHAR, *Pastor, Rosignol Parish.*

EDWARD MUCKUNLALL .... *Catechist* EILEEN SOOKLALL . . . *Parish Worker.*

Members of the Church Council

Mrs. V. Nelson, Mr. Reuben Paul, Mr. Eric Ingram Kally, Mr. Herbert Saigo, Mr. Lloyd Padavattan, Mr. Phillip Megnauth.

Dedicated to the Glory of God — *Contd.*

Pastors who served at Good Shepherd.

Rev. W. J. Wolff, Rev. C. S. Hayner, Rev. A. R. Bowen, Rev. E. Nicholas, Rev. W. J. E. Scott, Rev. L. Ingalls (deceased), Rev. H. C. Magalee, Rev. E. B. Meyer, Rev. W. E. Cox.

July 30, 1961, marks another historic day of the Evangelical Luth eran Church in B.G., when not only members of the various churches of the surrounding area, but a majority of Lutherans entered Good Shepherd Church of D'Edward Village and took part in its dedication service.

The service of dedication was conducted by the President the Rev. A. R. Bowen. The message for the occassion was delivered by the Rev. D. R. Gebert. Greetings were extended by various representatives. The Rev. F. D. Christhilf extended greetings on behalf of the Board of Foreign Missions.

We are very grateful to Almighty God and to the Board of Foreign Missions for the kind help in providing this beautiful building. Good Shepherd church has a real architectural design. The Cross which stands out at the tower and the Swan will always remind us of our christian heritage. Let us worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness and sing praises unto His name.

NEWS FROM THE UPPER BERBICE RIVER PARISH

Pastor Winston S. Bone, one of the recently ordained pastors, has been assigned to serve for one year in the Upper Berbice River Parish. Along with this assignment, Pastor Bone also is assigned to serve at Ebenezer for one year. In order for Pastor Bone to serve the two Parishes, he has had to recruit the help of many of our Pastors. With this kind help, members of the Upper Berbice River Parish receive a visit from a Pastor each month.

Two new Aluminium Kingstrand houses now adorn our compounds at Kimbia and at Ituni. These houses are to replace the previous catechist houses. From what is learnt, the one at Kimbia will serve as a Parsonage as from sometime during 1962.

Within recent months the Parish bade farewell to Pastor Henne, who has returned to the United States on furlough, Catechist Rudolph Loy, who has been transferred to Christ & Hope congregations, West Coast Berbice, and to Catechist W. A. Blair who retired from the service of the church, July 31, 1961. Catechist Blair is now one of our leaders in the new Government of British Guiana, we wish him every success in his new sphere of life.

Also at Hururu, a beautiful Prefabricated house is built for the catechist.

We are happy to report, that Mount Olivet congregation has remitted to the church towards her apportionment, $566.00, going over her goal by $153.50. Hururu Preaching Point remitted $167.50, which is $4.50 over her goal. Riverside Chapel with no Apportionment has remitted $104.00. The other congregations in the parish, not to be outdone, are striving hard to surpass and to have their names mentioned in the next issue of the *Southern Cross*.

With the retirement of Catechist W. A. Blair, Mount Carmel Lutheran church received graciously Catechist R. D. K. Singh as its new leader as from September 1, 1961. Serving temporarily at Reformation Lutheran Church, Kimbia, is Lay Reader Edward Sewdat. Mr. Sewdat is from the Skeldon Parish, where he has given excellent lay witnessing. We wish him God's blessings in his new environment and work.

Upper Berbice River Parish. — *Contd.*

The following action was taken by the Administrative Council at its meeting September 19—21 Voted; That the old catechist house at Ituni be offered for sale to the highest bidder for removal not later than December 31, 1961."

The Parish has to report the sad news of the passing of Grannie Leps. Grannie passed away as quietly as she had lived, on Friday, October 6, 1961, at 4.30 p.m.

It is sad news to report, but it gives us an opportunity to thank God for a life truly dedicated to His Service.

It was Grannie and her husband who spearheaded the petition which brought Grace Lutheran School to De Velde some twenty years ago. She then voluntarily made her home available for the children, who came several miles to school, to spend the week—thus she became the first matron and her home the first hostel. No wonder she was so dearly loved by children.

All the Pastors who served the Berbice River Parish during the years before the Swan was acquired, remember Grannie's hospitality, for then her home was the De Velde "Rest House". Indeed, the name Grannie fell naturally from their lips.

Her children tell that her first concern after the crop was in, was her tithe; but her generosity went much further. The land on which Grace now stands was the donation of Grannie and her husband. Their only request was that they be buried in that beloved tract of land. In honouring the request, Grannie's body, like that of her husband five years earlier, was borne up-river on the Swan II.

By a strange mistake, one of Grandpa's last requests was also honoured — he desired that his beloved wife be buried in the same grave as he; mistaken as to the spot of his grave, the diggers dug her grave right above his.

At a funeral service attended by almost all of the residents of De Velde, the following obituary was read:

OBITUARY OF ANNIE MARIA LEPS—nee Lindie.

On June 29th, 1878, Annie Maria was born to Frederick and Ellen Lindie, at Stat-Dansic, Berbice River.

At the tender age of 16 she became the bride of Herman Alfred Leps. This union was blessed with a quiver-full of offsprings, namely: Gwendoline, Hilda, Annie, Percy, Rosina, Hermina, Frederick & John (twins), Herman, Ellen, Eric, and Miriam.

After 60 years of happy married life, death struck a telling blow, by breaking asunder an exemplary partnership, and bestowing widowhood on her at the age of 76. Bearing her loss with a wonderful example of Christian fortitude, she left her beloved De Velde to reside with her daughter, Hermina, who predeceased her only a few months ago.

Being forced to change residence, she domiciled herself with another daughter, Rosina, in New Amsterdam. It was there that she quietly passed away on Friday, 6th October, 1961. She leaves to mourn her passing, Gwendoline, Hilda, Annie, Percy, Rosina, John, Herman, and Eric — children. She was grandmother of 60, great grandmother of 120, and great great grandmother of one.

Grannie, as she was called by one and all, was a particularly grand person. No tribute can be too high, no praise too far-fetched, in paying homage to her amazing and outstanding qualities. As a mother she was unsurpassed — quiet and humble, yet firm and dignified, commanding respect from husband, children, friends and neighbours alike. As a wife she

Upper Berbice River Parish — *Contd.*

was ideal — in her constant love, duty and loyalty to her busband. Always forbearing in love, and giving of her best without ceasing.

A Christian, she definitely patterned her life after the Master, for her life was beautifully lived in meekness and humility. Never one to blow her own trumpet, she served God and man in her own quiet and unassuming way.

While we offer our sincere condolences to the bereaved relatives, we thank God for the pattern of good works set by Grannie Annie Maria Leps, and rejoice with exceeding great joy that she has now entered into life eternal.

Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.

NEWS FROM EBENEZER

Goodbyes are not always pleasant. However, when we know that it is just for a while, we feel better. Au Revoir to you Pastor Cox and family, we'll be seeing you in a year's time. May you have a well earned vacation, bubbling over and all ready to step into the work upon your arrival.

Son of the soil and son of Ebenezer, Pastor Winston S. Bone, assumed acting duties of Ebenezer as from June 1, 1961. Members of the Vestry and congregation pledged their co-operation and support to the youthful unmarried pastor. When we remember his other assignment, let alone his having to take care of a huge parsonage, we here at Ebenezer are really being shepherded by Pastor Bone.

News has been received, that construction on the new Ebenezer might commence in January 1962. Exactly one year since old Ebenezer was demolished. Members of Ebenezer are restless and impatient. Some of our members who are not too young as well as those who are young are aversed to climbing the stairs of the Parish Hall, they say it's Reumatism. Hurry, hurry, Mr. Architect, Administrative Council, Building Committee! Many are just awaiting to have their weddings solemnized in the New Ebenezer.

The Junior Sunday School now meets in the building recently acquired from Mrs. Eleazar in St. Ann Street. Superintendent of the Junior Department, Miss Eva Munro, is now holidaying in the United Kingdom. We wish her a real good holiday and anxiously look forward to her return. The Pastor needs teachers for the Sunday School, let us answer Christ's call now through Ebenezer Sunday School.

To date, we have paid $3,817.10 towards our 1961 Apportionment, we must give $1,195.40 more if we are to meet our Apportionment in full. With a new Ebenezer, there are new responsibilities. New furnishings must be put into a new church. Fine feathers make fine Birds. Let us adorn our new church with new pews, new altar, complete new furnishings. Last year we budgeted Ten thousands dollars for new furnishings, how much have we given to date? We need to place our order *NOW* for the furnishings required, and don't forget our portion promised towards the construction of the New Ebenezer:—$10,000.00 Who needs a new church? We the members of Ebenezer, then let us each and every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. It is with regret, that we record the passing into Life of Estelle Jones on Friday, October 13, 1961.

OBITUARY — MISS ESTELLE JONES

The Lutheran Church in British Guiana mourns the loss of yet another stalwart. Estelle Jones passed into Life on Friday, October 13, 1961, and was laid to rest at Le Repentir Cemetery on Saturday.

Helen Catherine Estelle Jones was the granddaughter of the Rev. John R. Mittelholzer who, it would be recalled, alone pastored the four Lutheran Churches in British Guiana from about 1875 to 1912, and through whose efforts missionary support was obtained for the Church from the United States of America.

Born on March 18, 1906, Estelle possessed the girlhood ambition of following in her grandpa's footsteps by becoming a full-time worker, perhaps even on another mission field. Follow in his footsteps she did, but not in the manner in which she had hoped. She was active in every organization of the Church. In the then Christian Endeavour, the Luther Alliance (now Luther League), and the Sunday School she filled at various times the roles of organist, president, secretary and treasurer. From the choir her solos are still remembered. When a girl's hostel was opened, she was on hand to serve as matron.

But affliction came her way early in life, and gradually removed her from the work she loved so well. Even then she continued to serve with her fingers, knitting and repairing the altar linens. Finally, with no one to care for her, she entered the Palms and discovered to her surprise and joy that right there was the mission field to which God had called her. Cheerfully and cheeringly she spread the comforting news of the saving Grace of God through Jesus Christ to inmates and nurses alike. Under all circumstances and in all places her light continued to shine before men-and many were influenced to glorify God.

Her deep Christian conviction and her affable manner made her the friend of all with whom she came into contact. One friend writes, "Her smiles were always genuine under all difficulties," another, "I cannot remember seeing Estelle ruffled to anger." A missionary remarked, "Whenever I felt despondent I would stop by to see Estelle and I always left refreshed in spirit."

We extend to all her relatives our heart-felt sympathy at their loss. We however rejoice that for Estelle the words of the poet ring true:

"Asleep in Jesus — Blessed sleep!"

NEWS FROM THE BUXTON PARISH

Because of the Church's policy, no worker can serve for more than two terms (eight years) in one Parish", members of the Buxton Parish released their pastor, the Rev. A. R. Bowen to the neighboring parish, the Success parish. For Pastor Bowen, his family and the members of the Buxton Parish, this was indeed a touching moment in their lives. It never rains but pours seems to be a true saying. Members of Holy Trinity and Salem congregations in the Buxton parish had to bid farewell to catechists John R. Singh and Reginald L. Singh, as they too had served the parish for more than two terms. Catechist John Singh is now assigned to the St. Peter and St. Bartholomew congregations in the Williamsburg parish, Corentyne, Berbice, and Catechist R. L. Singh is now taking care of the Preaching Point at Bee Hive, the neighboring parish of the Buxton parish.

Succeeding Pastor Bowen, is Pastor Clinton E. Chu. Pastor Chu. together with Catechist John Abdool

News from the Buxton Parish — *Contd.*

will serve the Buxton parish.

As customary, a United Service to observe Reformation Day was held in the Congregational church at Buxton on Tuesday October 31. Special speaker for the night was Mr. Gordon Matthews of Ebenezer Lutheran church. The attendance was good and so was the music rendered by the choirs of the various protestant churches.

Members of Salem congregation are anxiously awaiting favourable word from Enmore Estates Ltd., concerning the purchase of a plot of land to erect a chapel at Bachelor's Adventure. They have already remitted to the church $275.00 towards their portion of the construction cost of a chapel. With the removal of Catechist R. L. Singh, the members have rearranged the place for worship. The place feels worshipful, members have furnished in part, a reading table, an altar, a cross, a pair of candlesticks.

NEWS COLUMN

Missionaries on furlough.

The Rev. William E. Cox and family, lady missionary Marriane Fague. We wish them a well earned vacation and look forward to their return. With the departure of Pastor Cox, the Board has appointed The Rev. Franklin D. Christhilf as chairman of the Administrative Council. This is the second term of service on the field for Pastor Christhilf. His first assignment was in the Skeldon parish, he now serves the Calvary parish, Georgetown.

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Pastor Arthur J. Henne flew out of British Guiana on August 10, after three years of hard work as Pastor of the Upper Berbice River parish and acting pastor of the Mara parish. Besides serving as a pastor, he gave much of his time and was of invaluable help to many of the committees of our church. Pastor Henne will enter Columbia University to study in the field of Anthropology. The co-editor of the Southern Cross eagerly awaits his return.

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Missionaries return for service.

The church welcomes Pastor Hansen and family back into its fellowship. This is the fourth term of service for Pastor Hansen. The church has elected Pastor Hansen to serve as Vice Chairman of the Administrative Council. Pastor Hansen now serves as pastor of the Campbellville parish and acting pastor of the Vreed-en-Hoop parish.

Lady missionaries Mary F. Recher and Martha L Petersen are again on the field. However, they are both now living in New Amsterdam. The church rejoices over their return and wishes them a successful ministry.

Congratulations to Treasurer Gebert, who has been successful in obtaining titles to many of our lands and properties, either by lease or transport. Keep it up Mr. Treasurer!

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Clearance Sale of the Lutheran Book Store.

By action of the church, all stock must be sold as early as possible. Now is the time for you to obtain religious literature at giving away prices. Five thousand used Common Service Books to clear at *only TWENTY FIVE CENTS each.* Seccure yours before the stock is sold out.

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Students return to school.

Returning to Waterloo Seminary, Canada for their last year are:— Ministerial students James Dookram,

News Column — *Contd.*

Victor Munro, Richard Smith. Accompanying students Dookram and Munro are their wives and small children. We eagerly look forward to their ordination in 1962. The following students have returned to Inter American University, San German, Puerto Rico.—Miss Stella Sookdeo, Mr. Harry Rajabally, Mr. Geoffrey Tannassee.

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Another missionary family.

The *Southern Cross* announces the arrival of the Rev. and Mrs J. Brooks Moore and their son Jimmy. The Brooks Moore arrived early October and have been visiting the various parishes of our church. Pastor Moore is assigned to the work in the Vreed-en-Hoop parish as from November 1, 1961. We welcome this new family in our midst, Our prayers ascend for God's blessings upon them and their work.

Resignation of Dr. Warren C. Johnson from Board of Foreign Missions.

News has been received, that Dr. Warren C. Johnson has resigned from the Board of Foreign Missions. Dr. Johnson served as secretary for the British Guiana field as from 1959. What is our loss, becomes the gain of Christ Lutheran Church, Baltimore, Maryland, since Dr. Johnson has accepted a call to serve this congregation, as from October 1, 1961. We pray, that Almighty God will continue to bless you and make your ministry a fruitful one.

* * *

Luther League Work Camp.

The visit of the North American Luther Leaguers of 1960 fondly lingers with us. What an inspiration they have left! Our Synodical Luther League conducted a two week work camp August 13—26 1961 in the Williamsburg parish under the guidance of the Advisor, the Rev. E. B. Meyer. The group undertook as its project, the repainting of St. John Lutheran Church, Williamsburg. Report states, the fellowship was fine, much was achieved during the study hour, the work of the repainting was excellent. Congratulations to all who participated.

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Christian Education Staff.

Our lady missionaries are now relieved of all parish assignments and are now assigned to the Christian Education Staff. They will now write all literature for our Sunday Schools and christian literature for our Primary Schools. In addition to the writing of literature, they will conduct leadership training courses throughout the church. If and when possible, they may have supervision of Sunday School and week day Bible classes and women's league in their parish home, also, may aid in Primary school C.E. programme in schools in their parish home.

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Board Of Governors Skeldon Lutheran High School.

The Administrative Council at its meeting on September 28, 1961 appointed the following persons to serve as members of the Board:—Pastor D. R. Gebert, Treasurer, Pastor A. R. Bowen, Vice Chairman, Pastor E. B. Meyer, Treasurer, Mr. J. P. Somwaru, Secretary, Pastors B. C. Lang, F. D. Christhilf and Mr. J. A. Sukhu. Government nominees are:-Mr. Haji Ramjohn, Mrs. Lilian Hope.

The following actions were taken by the Administrative Council at its meeting September 19—21, 1961.

Southern Cross.

Voted 1. That the editorial Staff formulate a committee to provide that as from the beginning of 1963, the *Southern Cross* would be sold to members of the congregation and others on an annual subscription basis.

News Column — *Contd.*

2. That the quality and coverage be improved.

Office Supplies.

Voted:— That parish stationery, stamps, mimeographing, etc., be removed from the budget of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in B.G. and placed in the parish budget as from December 31, 1961.

Income of Budget 1962—1964, Apportionment, Government Grants Etc.

Voted 1. That we approve that the Board's subsidy be reduced by 5 per cent per year beginning January 1, 1963 based on the Board's subsidy, subject to a review after five years, and that the Board be informed.

2. That the Apportionment goal be as follows.

1962	1963	1964
$38,000.00	$43,000.00	$50,000.00

President Of The B.G. Council Of The Evangelical Churches.

Congratulations to the Rev. Hector C. Magalee, who has been elected President of the Council of Churches. Executive member on this council is the Rev. Paul G. Hansen. Other representatives of our church on this council are:—Pastors A. R. Bowen, C. E. Chu, Messrs A. B. Ganesh and R. Sahai.

Dedication Of Advent Lutheran Church, Armadale, West Coast Berbice.

On Reformation Sunday, October 29, 1961, Advent Lutheran Church was dedicated to the glory of God and set apart for use. Pastor of this congregation is the Rev. John R. Singh.

Evangelism Mission at Advent Lutheran Church, Armadale, W.C. Berbice.

Following the dedication service, Pastor Singh and members conducted services each night at 7 p.m., commencing Sunday October 29 to November 4, 1961. The meetings were held in the open in front of the church building, attendances were good. Speakers for the mission, included Mr. Gordon Matthews, Pastor J. Brooks Moore, Mr. C. S. Chu and Dr. L. Sewnauth. Pastor Singh and his members deserve a great deal of congratulations for the work they put into the Mission.

Apportionment.

Leading the field in the matter of Apportionment is the Skeldon Parish. Three of their five congregations have already reached their 1961 goal, with a total of $1,300.00. Thank you and may Almighty God continue to bless all of you.

Our Stewardship Secretaries report, that at the end of October 1961, Apportionment remitted by congregations and Preaching Points amounted to $19,837.80. The following is a recommendation from the Secretaries to the Administrative Council at its meeting September 19—21, 1961. "That as our workers strive to gain new members, they make every effort to encourage the lapsed members to return to their place in the church."

Office Staff.

Miss Eva Munro and Mr. Ivan Carpen have been granted leave commencing August 1, to October 31. Miss R. Hunter relinquished her position in order to work with one of the Government offices. We welcome as her replacement, charming Miss Collette Christiani.

News Flash

Catechist Krishen Persaud has resigned in order to further his studies at Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, Texas, U.S.A.

B.G.L.—T-19,839